

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

In Fig. 2A, the reference numeral “20” on the left-hand side of the middle portion of the figure has been changed to --26-- to remove the duplicate reference from this portion of the figure.

Figs. 4A and 4B have been labeled as --Prior Art--.

Attachment: Two Replacement Drawing Sheets (numbered 2/6 and 6/6, and including Figs. 2A, 4A, and 4B)

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are all the claims pending in the application. New claim 5 has been added. Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Drawings

The Examiner asserted that Figs. 4A and 4B should be labeled as --Prior Art--. Accordingly, Applicants have submitted herewith replacement drawing sheets wherein Figs. 4A and 4B have been labeled as --Prior Art--.

In Fig. 2A, in the middle portion of the figure, the reference numeral "20" on the left-hand side has been replaced with --26-- to maintain consistency throughout the figures, and to remove the erroneous duplication of reference numeral "20" in that figure.

Claim Rejections

- The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 under § 112, 1st paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that the components of the operation limiting mechanism (11) are not identified as compared with the components forming the valve driving unit (10). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because the specification does, indeed, disclose how to make and use the invention as set forth in the claims.

Initially, Applicants note that the operation limiting mechanism (11) is a part of the overall valve driving unit (10) as is, for example, housing 15.

Next, Applicants assert that the structure of the operation limiting mechanism (11) can be determined by reference to its function of limiting the operation of the main shaft. As discussed in the specification, the rotational operation of the main shaft is limited by the engagement of rib 26 with the side walls 411 and 412 of the slot 41 when the main shaft is in its cleaning operation position. See, for example, Figs. 2A, and 2B, as well as the specification at the paragraph bridging pages 11 and 12. Further, when the main shaft is in the draining operation position, its rotational operation is limited by the engagement of the rib 27 with the case side rib 71, but is not

then limited by the rib 26. See, for example, Figs. 3A and 3B, as well as the specification at page 12, line 2 - page 13, line 16.

In light of the above, Applicants submit that the specification does, indeed, describe how to make and use the invention as set forth in the claims. Nonetheless, in order to provide further clarification, Applicants have amended claim 1 so as to set forth a rib and limiting portion of the operation limiting mechanism.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

- The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 under § 112, 2nd paragraph, as indefinite. The Examiner pointed out specific instances of alleged indefiniteness in the next to last paragraph on page 3 of the Office Action. Applicants have amended claim 1 in a manner believed to overcome this rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

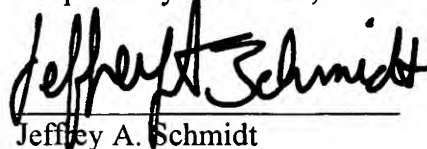
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